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planted by an orderly daily market with a steady inflow of supply and a comprehensive representation of the wholesale demand.

At Lyons the municipal authorities maintained a public granary, by which to regulate prices and alleviate distress, but the author mentions no other institution of the kind. In spite of Colbert's low opinion of municipal grain stores the institution was pretty general in Europe, and was established even in the American colonies; and an explanation of the divergence of French practice might well have occupied the author's attention.

Dr. Usher traces the history of public regulation of the grain trade with a critical ability which is much needed where there is so great divergence between the text of laws and the actual facts. It is interesting to note that he finds in Colbert the precursor of the modern free-trader as well as the protectionist (p. 273); but credits Laffémas with many of the ideas embraced in Colbertism (p. 351).

That the book is hard reading is due largely to the difficulty of the subject, and the character of the manuscript material on which it is mainly based. The author's meaning is sometimes obscured in the introductory chapter by vagueness in the use of technical economic terms, but is made clear in later chapters when illustrated by concrete facts. Dr. Usher deserves distinct credit for going as far as he has gone in the reconstruction of a past organization; and his work is welcome as a proof and promise of what can be done by American students in the field of the institutional history of commerce.

CLIVE DAY.

Yale University.

La Question Sociale en Espagne. By ANGEL MARVAUD. Musée Social. (Paris: Félix Alcan. 1910. Pp. 475.)

L'Espagne au XX^e Siècle. Etude Politique et Economique. By ANGEL MARVAUD. (Paris: Librairie Armand Colin. 1913. Pp. xiv, 515.)

The author of these scientific treatises on social, political, and economic conditions in Spain announces that he makes no attempt to be picturesque and has nothing to say of bull fights and castanets—the preoccupations of the ordinary tourist in the land beyond the Pyrennees. He aims to understand the actual status of the Spanish people, the reasons for decadence, and the possibilities of recovery. For a thoroughgoing study of the working

classes such as the first of these two volumes undertakes, the official records offer little aid. Not until the *Instituto de Reformas Sociales* began its investigations ten years since, were there any statistical publications of serious value. M. Marvaud had the advantage of working in the admirable collection of reports now to be had at the institute's headquarters in Madrid and the generous coöperation of some of the ablest men in Spain.

The picture presented is not a cheerful one. The greater portion of Spain's natural wealth is undeveloped. Lands that might be highly productive lie idle for lack of irrigation; mineral deposits remain untouched because the mining rights have been conceded to promoters who hold them at exorbitant prices; industrial enterprise is stifled by excessive taxes. The upper classes are essentially non-industrial, for manual labor, trade, and even commerce are deemed unworthy a *hidalgo*; and a man of good family expects to live on his income or, failing estates and investments, off his wits. The working classes, in town and country alike, are miserably paid, wretchedly housed and fed, ignorant, and, after a century of unprofitable revolution, hopeless of bettering their situation. Thousands of peasants, farm laborers, and mechanics—the young, the vigorous, the enterprising predominating—leave Spain every year for South America (the Argentine Republic for the most part), where they hope to find among a people of common language and common faith, opportunity to earn a living and establish their children in comfort. The annual emigration from Spanish ports has doubled within a decade and now amounts to more than two hundred thousand. Italy alone of European nations can show a comparable rate of increase. That Spain cannot afford this steady drain on her labor force is evident from the fact that her population density is less than that of Italy, Austria, Germany, or France, and that one of the prime causes of her industrial backwardness is a dearth of intelligent laborers.

Facing this grave situation, the government has entered upon a policy of *interventionisme*. Under the inspiring leadership of a group of up-to-date and public-spirited men in Madrid—Azcarate, the Republican, Moret, the ablest of the liberal premiers, Dato, the present conservative prime minister—a remarkable series of reform legislation has been promulgated, destined to secure better living and working conditions for every type of labor. The year 1900 witnessed the enactment of an admirable workmen's

compensation act, as well as the establishment of tribunals of arbitration and conciliation and the initial limitations on the labor of women and children. Other protective enactments have followed in rapid succession: a ten-hour day for miners, an eleven-hour day for women wage-earners, and prohibition of night work for women and children, as well as of employment at underground or dangerous industries. In 1911 a law was passed enabling municipalities to condemn unsanitary dwellings, purchase the land at an arbitrated price, and erect model houses on the vacated property, to be rented at low rates to working men.

For the benefit of the peasant farmer, the law of 1906 sought to encourage the organization of coöperative societies authorized to buy and sell at wholesale, bring waste lands under cultivation, establish credit agencies, etc.; and under the direction of the Catholic socialists much has already been accomplished along these lines. A movement is now on foot to promote agricultural education through schools and experiment stations and thus to substitute scientific culture for the crude and wasteful methods customary in Spain from time immemorial. Of even more service to agriculture would be a readjustment of tariff duties, permitting the free importation of machinery, seed, fertilizers, etc., but the opposition of the manufacturing sections of the north will successfully prevent such a change of policy for many years to come. The curse of latifundia and absentee landlordism and the crushing burden of taxation shifted by the wealthy proprietors to their poor neighbors are the underlying causes of rural discontent, but it would be a foolhardy premier who would undertake to institute expropriation against the unanimous protest of the landed nobility. Such a reform can be brought about by nothing short of general revolt.

The coming generation of Spaniards will probably see the rapid substitution of state intervention for the policy of laissez-faire and the devil take the hindmost so long accepted that it has become second nature to the people high and low. With the connivance of Marxian socialists and Catholic socialists, the cordial support of the party of reform, and the favor of the king, the exploitation of the laboring classes is being contested in the interest of race survival.

KATHARINE COMAN.